

To the Commissioners of the Federal
Communication Commission:

Media consolidation is a grave and current danger to our democracy. The decision of Sinclair Broadcasting to compel their affiliate stations to broadcast an anti-Kerry "documentary" just before the election is proof of this threat.

Broadcasters use the public airwaves free of charge, and are obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair's actions prove that they have no respect for the law or the public trust. If they are allowed to run the anti-Kerry movie, it will also prove that the FCC is not doing its job to protect the public ownership of our airwaves.

Consolidation by large media corporations means increasing control of our airwaves by a few powerful entities. These few have tremendous power to influence citizen's views and ultimately their votes. This is corrupting the integrity of the news and reporting that is so essential to a free nation.

Furthermore, when large companies control the airwaves, quality suffers. Consolidated media broadcasts more of what's profitable and less clear, accurate information - information that is essential to sound decision making. Also, consolidated broadcast corporations are increasingly producing news at a central location that is usually removed and far away from important local issues. We need more locally owned media and more thorough in-depth local reporting - not more consolidated one size fits all media.

What Sinclair is now trying to do - influence the presidential election - clearly demonstrates the critical need to implement media ownership rules that REDUCE MEDIA CONSOLIDATION AND CONCENTRATION.

The last FCC media consolidation review was inadequate and the final decision was misguided and a threat to our democracy. I STRONGLY SUPPORT A REVISED LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS THAT WIDELY AND DEEPLY INVOLVES THE PUBLIC.

Your kind attention to the issues raised herein is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard M. Kotlier
5401 Greenside Drive
San Jose, CA 95127